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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

September 17, 2019

Mr. Nicholas E. Calio
President and CEO
Airlines for America
1275 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 1300
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Calio,

Beginning October 1, 2020, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license (or other acceptable form of ID) to fly within the United States. I request the assistance of Airlines for America (A4A) and your member companies in educating the public about the upcoming REAL ID implementation deadline.

The vast majority of state licensing authorities have begun issuing REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses. However, many Americans are carrying licenses issued before their states and jurisdictions adopted REAL ID standards. I suspect that most of those Americans do not realize that they must get a new, compliant license from the DMV. Furthermore, some states and jurisdictions are offering non-compliant, less expensive driver's license options to their residents. Currently, more than half of the population are choosing these non-REAL ID compliant license.

I am increasingly concerned about the potential disruption for air travel if there is widespread lack of compliance with the law among the flying public. It will take a national effort involving both government and non-government stakeholders – including the airlines – to ensure that the public is aware and takes the necessary steps to acquire compliant identification.

As Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, I am working to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security and Transportation Security Administration carry out an aggressive and well-funded public awareness campaign. I urge A4A and its members to help amplify the DHS message. Specifically, I request that the airline industry prominently share DHS videos and printed materials about the upcoming deadline, and include information about how travelers can obtain a REAL ID-compliant or identification card on your websites, social media platforms, and at airports.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure America's air transportation system remains, safe, secure, and efficient.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
Chairman

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September 17, 2019

Mr. Roger Dow
President and CEO
U.S. Travel Association
1100 New York Avenue NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Dow,

Beginning October 1, 2020, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license (or other acceptable form of ID) to fly within the United States. I request the assistance of the U.S. Travel Association and your member companies in educating the public about the upcoming REAL ID implementation deadline.

The vast majority of state licensing authorities have begun issuing REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses. However, many Americans are carrying licenses issued before their states and jurisdictions adopted REAL ID standards. I suspect that most of those Americans do not realize that they must get a new, compliant license from the DMV. Furthermore, some states and jurisdictions are offering non-compliant, less expensive driver's license options to their residents. Currently, more than half of the population are choosing these non-REAL ID compliant license.

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As Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, I am working to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security and Transportation Security Administration carry out an aggressive and well-funded public awareness campaign. I urge your association and its members to help amplify the DHS message. Specifically, I request the prominent sharing of DHS videos and materials about the upcoming deadline, and include information about how travelers can obtain a REAL ID-compliant or identification card on your websites and social media platforms.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure America's air transportation system remains, safe, secure, and efficient.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
Chairman

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September 17, 2019

Mr. Steve Shur
President
Travel Technology Association
3033 Wilson Blvd., Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Shur,

Beginning October 1, 2020, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license (or other acceptable form of ID) to fly within the United States. I request the assistance of the Travel Technology Association and your member companies in educating the public about the upcoming REAL ID implementation deadline.

The vast majority of state licensing authorities have begun issuing REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses. However, many Americans are carrying licenses issued before their states and jurisdictions adopted REAL ID standards. I suspect that most of those Americans do not realize that they must get a new, compliant license from the DMV. Furthermore, some states and jurisdictions are offering non-compliant, less expensive driver's license options to their residents. Currently, more than half of the population are choosing these non-REAL ID compliant license.

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As Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, I am working to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security and Transportation Security Administration carry out an aggressive and well-funded public awareness campaign. I urge your association and its members to help amplify the DHS message. Specifically, I request that travel technology industry companies prominently share DHS videos and materials about the upcoming deadline, and include information about how travelers can obtain a REAL ID-compliant or identification card on your websites and social media platforms.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure America's air transportation system remains, safe, secure, and efficient.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
Chairman

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September 17, 2019

Mr. Bhart A. Sarin
President
Global Business Travel Association
1101 King Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Sarin,

Beginning October 1, 2020, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license (or other acceptable form of ID) to fly within the United States. I request the assistance of the Global Business Travel Association and your member companies in educating the public about the upcoming REAL ID implementation deadline.

The vast majority of state licensing authorities have begun issuing REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses. However, many Americans are carrying licenses issued before their states and jurisdictions adopted REAL ID standards. I suspect that most of those Americans do not realize that they must get a new, compliant license from the DMV. Furthermore, some states and jurisdictions are offering non-compliant, less expensive driver's license options to their residents. Currently, more than half of the population are choosing these non-REAL ID compliant license.

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Thank you for your efforts to ensure America's air transportation system remains, safe, secure, and efficient.

Sincerely


Roger F. Wicker
Chairman